Setting up of Electric Loco Shed and EMU Car Shed at Katwa

2439. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since considered to set up an electric loco shed and an EMU car shed at Katwa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Computerised Reservation System

2440. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the New Jalpaiguri, Kalimpong, Kurseong, Mirik, Raigunj and Balurghat have not been connected with Computerised Reservation System; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to provide such facilities at the above mentioned places?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Computerised reservation facilities have been provided at the Siliguri City Booking Office for the convenience of intending passenger at Siliguri and New Jalpaiguri. There is no railway infrastructure or railway staff of Kalimpong, Mirik and Balurghat. Therefore, it would not be possible to provide these facilities here at present. The reservation workload at Raiganj and Kurseong is very negligible and this low volume of reservation work does not justify the provision of computerised reservation facilities.

Sen Gupta Committee

2441. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sen Gupta Committee on electronic media has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the follow up action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) The Sengupta Committee appointed to review the provisions of Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 and to make recommendations, submitted its report on 12.8.96. The recommendations were discussed in a meeting held on 13.9.96 with the leaders of the various political parties. The report was further discussed in the meeting of the State Information Minister Conference held in October, 1996. With a view to avoid further delay in the implementation of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, Government have notified on 22.7.97 that the Act will come into force from 15.9.97. The major recommendations of the Committee are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

The major recommendations relating to Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, of the Expert Group, are as under :

- Prasar Bharati to be a statutory corporation as envisaged in the Act;
- Akashvani and Doordarshan to be split into two completely separate Wings, under the corporate umbrella of the Prasar Bharati Corporation, with close coordination in areas clearly defined by the Corporation;
- Prasar Bharati Board to be restructured with a full-time Chairman combining the functions of Chairman and Chief Executive, six full time members, four part-time members, representative from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and Managing Directors of Akashvani and Doordarshan;
- Employees' participation in management below the Board Level;
- Chairman of the Board to be appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of a Committee having Chairman of Council of States, Leader of Opposition, and Chairman of the Press Council;
- Certain suggestions relate to the term of office of the Chairman, members, as well as recruitment and deployment of officers and other employees;
- The Parliamentary Committee provided for in Section 13 (1) to be dispensed with, as its work can be looked after by the Standing Committee on Communications, the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry and by the proposed Radio and Television Authority of India (as directed by the Supreme Court);
- Need to precisely define the areas in Section 24 in respect of which the Corporation will furnish information to Central Government;
- An authorised share of Rs. 5,000 crores, paid up capital of Rs. 2,000 crores, and the assets of AIR and Doordarshan to be transferred on lease to the Corporation;